

68 *THE CASTAWAYS OF
TPIE FLAG*

" I agree," Fritz replied. " But what worries me is that this beach is absolute desert, and I am afraid the upper plateau may be so too."

" Let us begin by taking possession of the cave, and we will attend to the rest presently."

" Oh ! " said Frank. " That is not much like our house at Rock Castle, and I don't even see a stream of fresh water to take the place of our Jackal River!"

" Patience! Patience!" the boatswain answered- " We shall find some spring all right by and by among the rocks, or else a stream coming down from the top of the cliff."

" Anyhow," Fritz declared, " we must not think of settling on this coast* If we do not succeed in getting round the base of those bastions on foot we must take the boat and reconnoitre beyond them. If it is a small island we have come ashore upon, we will only stay long enough to set Captain Gould up again. A fortnight will be enough, I imagine."

" Well, we have the house, at all events," John Block remarked. " As for the garden, who is to say that it isn't quite close by—on

the other
side of this point, perhaps ? "

They left the cave and walked down
across the
beach, so as to get round the bastion.

From the cave to the first rocks
washed by the
sea at the half-ebb was about two
hundred yards.